

on the back, shake hands, adjourn, go home, and sleep more soundly than ever before; but, unfortunately, the ghosts of Dr. Lea, Mr. Conrad, Mr. Say, and others might appear upon the scene, and Mr. Ego might appear in the flesh, armed with carpet-bag, microscope, and manuscript; in which case the big show would not last half long enough to enable the quarrelsome scientists to finish throwing mussel shells at one another.

Seriously, however, this "muddle" ought to be unuddled; but how is it to be done? Who is there upon whom all concerned will be willing to rest the responsibility of deciding contested points? Can three or five men be found upon whose judgment all will consent to rest? If so, who shall they be?

By the time the "Unio Muddle" shall have been fairly settled the indications are that there will be three or four other first class muddles ripe. Would it not be well for the American Association of Conchologists to do in regard to American mollusks as the American Ornithological Union has done in regard to the American Birds, and settle not only the "Unio Muddle," but all contested points in American Conchology?

Why is it that the reputation of a conchologist should rest upon the naming of new species rather than upon a knowledge of Conchology? and, honestly, may not the making of new species sometimes be attributed more to conceited self-assertion than to a desire to help the science? Suppose we have a committee of the American Association whose duty it shall be to decide upon the merits of so-called new species, and that a name be regarded as only provisional until it be accepted or rejected by such committee. So mote it be.

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DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF *NASSA* FROM THE GULF OF CALIFORNIA.

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Shell small, elongated, ovate, of seven to eight whorls, with an acutely elevated spire, ornamented with generally three spiral series of granules; occasionally four series are exhibited on the penultimate whorl, and six to seven on the basal. These granules also correspond to a longitudinal arrangement. In some examples the sutural series is a little more prominent and followed by a slight

parallel sulcation. Otherwise sculptured with revolving liræ on the lower half of the basal whorl. Suture more or less distinct, aperture small, ovate, about one-third the length of the shell. Outer lip externally rimmed and internally thickened, crenulated and denticulate on the inner side; pillar and face of basal whorl heavily calloused, with a single plication or fold on the base and four or five obtuse wrinkles above. Aperture notched above with the usual attendant callosity; pillar roundly arcuated, and the whole surface of the parietal region and edge of the lip showing a warm shining brown glaze, light in some examples and quite dark in others; some specimens are much more robust than others and vary also in the elevation of the spire.

Dimensions of largest, altitude 16 mm., breadth 9 mm.

An intermediate example measures, altitude 15 mm., breadth 8 mm.

The majority of the specimens are much smaller than the least of the above.

The nearest ally of *N. brunneostoma* is *Nassa complanata* Powis, and these two species, together with *N. tegula* of Reeve, form a little group possessing similar general characters.

*N. brunneostoma* is readily separated from its congeners by the highly glazed and solid brown callus that surrounds the aperture.

Habitat.—Gulf of California, near the mouth of the Colorado River; also at Guaymas, on the easterly shore, where numerous examples were collected by Dr. Edward Palmer (Mus. Nos. 23721, 37239, 55951).

Washington, D. C., May 2, 1893.

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#### NOTES AND NEWS.

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THE MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.—At a meeting held on the 27th February, at 67 Chancery Lane, London, England, W. H. Hudleston, F. R. S., in the chair, the following resolutions were passed:

1. That a Society be formed in London for the purpose of furthering the study of the Mollusca and Brachiopoda in all their branches.

2. That the Society be called the "MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON," and that the Annual Subscription be 10s. 6d.